

BRIEFING MEMORANDUM FOR THE ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR, ANE

FROM: ANE/AF, Jeff Malick

SUBJECT: Afghanistan - Meeting with Ambassador Oakley

Date: Tuesday, August 1, 1989
Time: 2:30 p.m.
Place: Your office
Duration: One hour

PARTICIPANTS: DAA/ANE, Treese
ANE/AF, JMalick
NEA/PAB, MAPeters

Purpose: Ambassador Oakley is in Washington on personal business and has asked for a meeting with you. You may use this opportunity to: 1) ask for the Ambassador's assessment of the current political and military situation, 2) his reaction to the current A.I.D. food and funding picture, 3) inform him of A.I.D.'s plans to field a narcotics project design team, and 4) obtain further thoughts on democratization initiatives. Below are suggested questions and talking points on these topics.

Background: Since the Ambassador should be current on political/military events on the ground, information on these topics should shed some light on the accuracy of the negative reports flowing from Kabul.

In an earlier message in which several topics were covered, Ambassador Oakley suggested the food pipeline for the A.I.D. cross-border program was running dry. Since that cable was sent (approximately two weeks ago), A.I.D. and the Pakistan Government have signed a Transfer Authorization for 60,000 metric tons of wheat, to be delivered to Pakistan September/October. He also suggested that the A.I.D. portfolio was out of money, since the release of ERMA funds was still pending. There was never any danger of the program as a whole exhausting its funding, since there was a pipeline of approximately \$48 million as of June 30, 1989. Furthermore had Freedom Medicine, the PVO which experienced a temporary shortage of funding, submitted its proposal in a timely manner, it could have received other A.I.D. funds until ERMA money became available.

With respect to narcotics, the Ambassador is eager to move forward with a sizeable initiative this fiscal year. An

A.I.D.-funded narcotics consultant team is scheduled to be in Pakistan on August 11 pursuant to this objective.

Talking Points:

Political/Military

- Are the resistance commanders coordinating their plans for a major offensive this summer or is there still factionalism that will prevent this?
- Would you like to hazard a guess as to when the current Kabul regime will fall?
- Is the Afghan Interim Government (AIG) making progress in broadening its political base to include commanders, Shiites, and shuras? Are the leaders making progress in working together as a whole rather than heads of individual parties with partisan interests?
- The AIG seems to be losing the battle on the disinformation front. Is progress being made in establishing a press spokesman's office that can effectively counter the negative publicity coming out of Kabul?

Food Supply

- I was surprised by an earlier Embassy message in which mention was made that the A.I.D. food supply was running short and that the cross-border program funding would be exhausted if ERMA funding were not released.
- I am pleased that our AIDRep staff concluded difficult negotiations leading to the signing of a Transfer Authorization for another 60,000 metric tons of wheat. I understand that this wheat will be delivered by September/October when the first 60,000 is expected to be depleted. However, if A.I.D. had encountered unforeseen problems in meeting this schedule, it is not clear that there would have been a crisis, since the AIDRep/Embassy have told us that WFP has stored an estimated 125,000 metric tons in Pakistan for use inside Afghanistan.
- Where does WFP stand with respect to their plans to deliver across the border the 53,000 metric tons the USG has provided? I have learned that they are not experiencing much success. Should A.I.D. continue to encourage WFP to mount a cross-border program, or should we take possession of their wheat for our program as was originally agreed, if WFP were unable to deliver its wheat?

ERMA Funds

- With respect to ERMA funds, I am delighted they have been transferred to the O/AIDRep to amend the grants of several

PVOs which were experiencing a shortage, though their operations were not disrupted. While Washington worked hard to expedite a timely release, the program overall wasn't in any danger of expending its entire funding. Based on reports from the O/AIDRep, there was a pipeline of approximately \$48 million as of June 30th.

Narcotics

- A.I.D. agrees with you that this is a high priority sector warranting A.I.D. assistance. We expect to field a consultant team to Pakistan by August 11 to assess the impact of Project Alpha, our pilot activity. If this initiative has been successful, the team will design an expanded effort that contains drug awareness and crop substitution components.

Democratization and Pluralism

- While Larry Crandall was in Washington on consultations, we enjoyed a good exchange of ideas on pluralism in the Afghan context. NED has met with Larry and is sharpening its proposals. One idea forwarded was the establishment of a human rights commission. What are your thoughts on this suggestion?

Personnel

The Ambassador has expressed a strong interest in assigning an A.I.D. regional affairs officer to Quetta to supervise the monitoring of A.I.D. resources in southwest Afghanistan. You might suggest we wait out the fighting season before we make a final decision on this new position. ANE is expecting a cable from the O/AIDRep requesting AID/W consider this new position.

Clearance
DAA/ANE, Treese _____

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